8: Waddell & Krinks E-4,5 (1964-1965) 1968 OJ23 Orokaiva OJ23

346

Plate 9. The chapel constructed on the new Inonda site. The material in the foreground has been set aside for the construction of an Administration rest-house. Note the preponderance of non-traditional materials - gathered from military dumps.

348

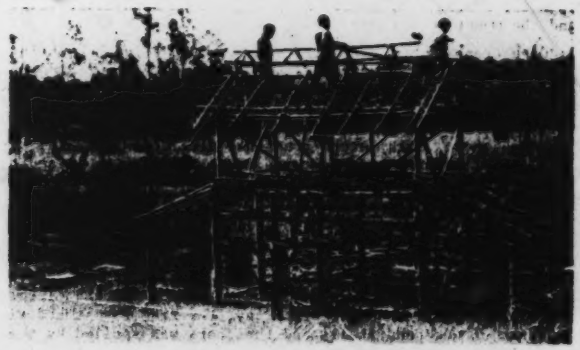

Plate 10. Erecting the copra-drier at Inonda - a communal effort.

support is an essential prerequisite to land reform in a democratic state, and many examples exist in the colonial world wherein provisions for reform have been resisted or boycotted because of opposition to the institution prosecuting the reform rather than to the reform itself.(1)

Coffee processing and marketing

From its inception the council expressed the view that processing and marketing should be handled by the Orokaiva themselves (either through the council or some other authority set up for the purpose). Administration officers were generally sympathetic to this view though some doubted the capacity of the council to operate such an enterprise efficiently. It was agreed that the factory and equipment should be owned by the Orokaiva, but the question of management was left in abeyance.

During the 1920's "communal" village plantations were established throughout the Orokaiva area under the Native Plantations Ordinance 1918.(2) Part of the proceeds of produce sales was distributed to villagers and part was deposited in a fund to be used for specific purposes including education. The project was resumed for a short time after the war and a credit balance remained in the Sangara Native Coffee Trust Fund. This money was used as part payment for the purchase of hulling, winnowing and polishing machines for the factory. The balance was met by a loan from the Native Loans Board (which is an agency of the central government). A factory building was erected for the council by an indigenous contractor at a cost of £500. The building was completed and the machinery installed by January 1959. Until this time the processing and marketing of coffee had been undertaken by a private firm.

(1) Local reaction will be determined largely by the relations between the people and the authority implementing the reform. Owing to the precarious nature of relations between people and government in this Territory considerable emphasis will need to be given to public participation if the reforms proposed in the Lands Commission Bill 1962 and the Land (Tenure Conversion) Bill 1963 are to be successfully implemented.

(2) This project will be described in detail in a forthcoming issue of this Bulletin.